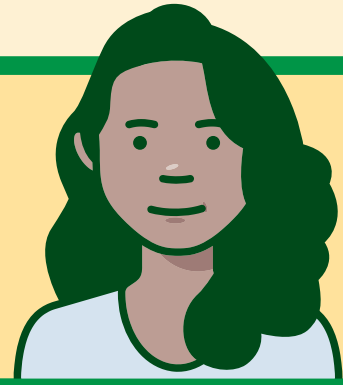


Information for patients on the PBS co-payment freeze



From 1 January 2025, the Australian Government introduced a freeze on the patient co-payment for Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medicines.

This initiative aims to ease cost pressures for patients and ensure continued access to essential medicines.

Key changes for prescribers

For most Medicare cardholders:

- The patient co-payment is frozen at **\$31.60 for 2025**, with no indexation increases for one year.

For pensioners and Commonwealth concession cardholders:

- The patient co-payment for PBS medicines will remain at **\$7.70 until 2030**, instead of increasing annually with inflation.

Optional \$1 discount

- The optional \$1 discount that pharmacists can apply to the cost of PBS medicines will be gradually reduced from 1 January 2025, while PBS co-payments are frozen. It will decrease by the amount of indexation that would have applied to a patient's PBS co-payment each year until it reaches zero.

More information

For more details on the PBS co-payment freeze or how it may benefit your patients, visit health.gov.au/cheapermedicines

How it benefits your patients

- Patients' **out-of-pocket costs** will not increase, especially those on long-term or multiple medications.
- Household budgets face less strain as medication prices remain stable, unaffected by inflation.

How prescribers can support patients

Encourage open conversations about medication costs

- Ask patients about their ability to afford prescribed medicines.
- Suggest affordable options, such as generic or biosimilar medicines.

Educate patients about PBS coverage

- Help patients understand if their prescribed medicines are PBS-listed.
- Direct them to the [PBS Medicine List](#).

Explain cost-management strategies

- Highlight how the PBS Safety Net can help patients to reduce their long-term medication expenses.
- Suggest patients track their medication costs for Safety Net benefits.